



Maine Seacoast Mission

séacoastmission.org

OUR MISSION

Rooted in a history of compassionate service and mutual trust, the Mission seeks to strengthen coastal and island communities by educating youth, supporting families, and promoting good health.

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Message from the President

A PLACE TO BELONG

As folks emerged from Maine's harsh winter—and even from Covid last year—they have been ready to get together and reconnect. And they are ready to talk—about their experiences, what had changed, what has been heartbreakingly lost, hopes and fears for the future, and how the Mission has been present.

To grow in partnership with community, the Mission would need to make the most of their readiness to gather and to talk. And so, we listened. We have listened with parentteacher groups, those in senior housing, on the year-round islands, and with historically underserved populations. We have listened with donors. board members, foundations, agencies, and past Mission leaders. We're not done, but we've heard a lot that will help us plan for our future together.

We hear real concern in our island and Downeast coastal communities. The themes are familiar: access to health care, transportation, affordable housing, food security, changing fisheries, education opportunities, and concern for young people and families.

When we ask how we can help, the first answer is always the same: "Keep doing what you've always done," but there are also careful considerations



that will inform our planning what to keep, what may be gone by, and how we can do even better.

Through it all, there is an overwhelming appreciation for the Mission: "family," "part of the community," and "one of us." They are grateful Mission staff and volunteers steadfastly "show up" for them, "dig in," "don't judge," "love," "care," and "support" them. The Mission "meets you where you are," "helps however you need help," and offers a "place to belong."

Fittingly, A Place to Belong is the theme for this edition of The Bulletin. You'll find stories of belonging, new members of the Mission family, and a roll call of those who make belonging possible. A Place to Belong is also the theme for our Mission Downeast building project and capital campaign (learn more on page 10).

I am grateful to have found a place to belong in this remarkable Mission community along with you.

John Zavodny, President Maine Seacoast Mission

Cover: Moving forward: Cherryfield Elementary students are in step with the Marion Kane Leadership program



A Place to Belong

A place to belong. That simple but powerful line is the tag line for the Mission's Downeast Capital Campaign. For every community member, that sense of belonging can be different. For Kandi Robertson, a licensed clinical social worker and registered play therapist living in Addison, her sense of belonging has come in many ways.

"For us and for others I know, EdGE has really provided a second family," Kandi says. Both of her sons participate in athletic activities year-round, and by attending EdGE afterschool, they interact with kids they might not see or otherwise get to know. "The Mission's education programming gives familiesnot just students-a chance to be part of a community in a different way," she adds. "That creates a strong sense of belonging amongst families and amongst peers."

For the community members Kandi has worked with and refers to the Mission's food pantry or to Family & Community Engagement Program Manager Stephanie Moores, a sense of belonging can come

from getting what they need within their own community. Someone they trust. "It helps when they can reach out to someone they know through another connection," Kandi says. "They can say, 'Oh, I know Stephanie. Her daughter goes to the same school. Our kids play basketball together.' Someone feels they belong when familiar people are there and you have relationships with them."

These relationships and sense of trust are at the heart of the Mission's work: creating opportunities to build strong connections and allowing community members to flourish and grow within those spaces.

For some island residents, belonging means a connection to the internet and an iPad, something they did not have previous access to. For Downeast community members, this sense of belonging can be from free weekend activities that allow kids to try skating and snowshoeing. And for students in the Journey program who graduate from high school this year, belonging comes from



people attended hearing screenings on islands with a University

islands and ferries with Narcan setups

Journey

79 students from ages 12–17 participated



hours of programming, including:



adventures



10 college campus visits



trips

129 overnight

peer mentors

volunteered for

the connections they made with each other and their communities.

iPads Open Up a New World

When Covid closed businesses and kept people at home, the internet became the only way to connect to the larger world. Many joined work meetings, held virtual game nights, and attended doctor appointments without leaving home. But for those without a computer, tablet, cell phone, or stable internet, these connections-which many took for granted-were impossible. People who could not connect were left behind without an easy way to reach friends or family. For those living on Maine's unbridged islands, this sense



Douglas Cornman and Simone Babineaux prepare an iPad for an islander

of separation from the mainland is not new. Yet for those who could not connect, suddenly the gulf was much deeper. In 2021, staff aboard the Sunbeam noticed which islanders were being left behind and the Mission acted.

Through a grant from the Celia Lipton Farris and Victor W. Farris Foundation, the Mission provided 15 islanders with iPads and either a hotspot or another method of connecting to the internet. Each recipient was then paired with another resident to provide technical help and training.

Leland K. Small, who lives on Isle au Haut, calls himself tech-averse. He never owned a cellphone or a laptop, but when he was asked about getting an iPad, he decided to try it out. "Now that I am getting older, I see the use for an iPad," Leland says. "I wanted to exercise my brain and it's been a useful tool." While he is still learning the basics, he plans to watch instructional videos to learn how to fix his own boat and order the parts he needs.

Leland also started using the iPad to attend doctor's visits virtually. This means he no longer worries about taking the mail boat and getting to his appointments. "Living on an island makes going any distance difficult. You take the mailboat and it has a schedule. If you miss it 'uh-oh,'" he adds.

And while the iPads were initially intended to help islanders receive medical care, these devices have done much more by permitting continued learning, access to resources, and an increased sense of autonomy and control of one's life. The iPads also created and reinforced connections to family, friends, and the mainland.

Leland is getting more comfortable with it. When a tech-savvy teenage resident recently went through each app with him, he took copious notes. He is excited about what he will be able to do, "I think it's greatly beneficial. It's going to be extremely useful for me."

Winter Activities

Downeast, belonging manifests through programming happening on the Cherryfield campus. A new collaboration between the EdGE program and the Family and Community Engagement program brought communities together for fun, winter activities.

While skating at the EdGE Center has been a staple for many winters, this year Family & Community Engagement Program Manager Stephanie Moores attended each weekend to meet families and share available resources from the Mission and the wider Downeast community.

Both Stephanie and EdGE Primary



Community children enjoy the ice skating rink on the Downeast campus

Program Director Isaac Marnik say many visitors are excited to have a central place to go with free activities for a range of ages. Families meet each other and stay the whole afternoon. "To have a positive place for people to stop in and have a good time brings everyone together," Isaac says. "And we offer plenty of food and plenty of fun to facilitate that."

These events have also given families an easy way to learn more about the services the Mission offers. "We feel it is important to be there to make connections with families face-to-face," Stephanie says. There is a table set up with information on programs the Mission offers as well as other resources

EdGE 734 students enrolled from participating schools



Engagement tomilies utilized support servi

Family & Community families in the EdGE program received aid from the Good Neighbor Fund



children receive food each week through the backpack program

families might need. "Nothing is formal, but if a family does have a need for resources, we set up a private time to meet. Many tell me they did not know the extent of the programming we offer here at the Mission." Stephanie helped families sign up their children for the EdGE afterschool program and offered others to shop at the food pantry just across Weald Bethel Lane.

During school vacations, the Mission continues to offer programming on the Downeast campus, including use of the ropes course and walking trails. Stephanie looks for innovative ways to communicate with EdGE families, like a monthly newsletter and visiting schools during EdGE activity nights.

These opportunities forge connections between students and their families and strengthen the sense of belonging they experience in the Mission's education programming.

Growing Together with Peers

In 2018, 11 seventh graders joined Journey, a new education initiative at the time. The program promised that students would get outdoors, explore their communities, and develop the tools needed to successfully transition from high school to college and careers. Taking a leap of faith, Ashlyn, DeVae, Katrina, Kaycee, Laney, Lydia, Makayla, Matthew, Megan, Michael, and

Skylar jumped right in building skills, adventuring as a group, and developing lasting friendships.

Fast forward six years to 2023, these students are wrapping up their time with Journey and preparing to graduate high school. Reflecting on their experiences, many identify the same things that made the program so special: the support they received and the friends they made.

"I bonded with people I otherwise would not have been friends with and created lasting relationships with all sorts of people" Kaycee says. While some of the students had known each other for years, others came from different elementary schools, towns, and backgrounds. Journey brought them together. Kaycee adds that the group became an extra support system which allowed her to be fully herself. Lydia agrees, saying she remembers noticing the positive change Journey had on her: while playing games on Swan's Island, she realized she was no longer the shy student that started the program. She found her place and her voice.

Every year, Journey welcomes a new cohort of seventh grade students in the fall. Lydia urges any student thinking about joining Journey to do so. "You won't regret it," Megan adds. Many of the students point to the opportunities and experiences that were an important part of their growth as individuals. Over the years, the group camped, journaled,

cooked meals, visited colleges, and took trips outside of the Downeast region. They have kayaked, hiked, volunteered for local organizations, and expanded their horizons.

The students have also received mentorship from community members, Mission staff, including Journey Coordinator Briana West who has worked with the students since the start of the program. One-on-one mentorship is an integral part of the program, with almost all students pointing to it as highlight of their time in Journey. Skylar and Ashlyn agree that the Mission and mentors have been present to help and provide guidance. Matthew also says mentoring was one of the parts that helped him the most in the program. "Journey gives you a mentor you can rely on." Volunteering is also vital to the program so students learn to participate and to give back to their communities. Laney reveals that doing so created a greater sense of belonging, "We were encouraged to help others and provide service. We learned the importance of giving back to a community that has given us so much."

While Journey always focuses on preparing students for their post-high school careers, starting this school year, this group spent the year focused on what was dubbed their next "journey." As twelfth graders, they learned how to complete the FAFSA school application,



Journey students volunteer at The ARK Animal Shelter in Cherryfield

completed college entrance essays, and applied for scholarships. Journey also hosts weekly office hours for students to work on college applications, and to ask questions, especially the hard ones about leaving home.

As they reflect on their high school careers, they all believe their time in Journey positively impacted their lives. Laney says, "I've had so many new experiences that I generally wouldn't have because of Journey. Journey opened the door to so many great opportunities, especially in terms of my future after high school." DaVae adds, "Journey is like no other program out there." 🛇

C Delcome NEW STAFF MEMBERS



ACE BARRERA

This winter, the Mission welcomed Ace Barrera as the new Davis Maine Scholarship Program Director. He has 18 years of experience in college admissions, transition and orientation programs, and student advising. In his role, Ace will support Davis Maine Scholars and ensure their smooth transition to, and success in, college. Ace shares, "I

am very excited to lead the Scholarship. I view this role as a continuation of my personal and professional passion to assist students and their families in their transition to higher education." Most recently, he was the Director of Events and Hospitality and a Student Success Manager at The University of Maine. The Davis Maine Scholarship is a partnership between Maine Seacoast Mission and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund. Davis Maine offers full, renewable, four-year scholarships at three partner colleges for qualifying first-generation students from Washington and eastern Hancock counties. The Mission will select the third Scholar cohort this summer.



SIMONE BABINEAUX

The Mission has a new *Sunbeam* Nurse, Simone Babineaux! With 25 years of experience as a registered nurse and family nurse practitioner, Simone worked in public health in Los Angeles, as a clinic nurse in Moscow, Russia, and as a first responder in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Most recently Simone was

a nurse practitioner at an assisted living facility and conducted home assessments for individuals with complex health needs. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime. To provide health care as a part of an institution so steeped in island community and history is a dream come true." Simone says. As a member of the Island Services team, the Sunbeam Nurse visits outer islands, and helps connect island residents with doctors and specialists both in-person and through the telehealth program. She also makes home and wellness visits, conducts vaccination clinics, and facilitates the Eldercare network, which helps islanders age in place.

Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2022

OPERATING FUND

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OPER	AIING	FUND	INCU	ME

OPERATING FOND INCOME	
Annual Giving and Special Events	\$1,14 <i>7</i> ,5 <i>7</i> 4
Foundation and Government Grants	821,436
Trust Income	281,993
Program and Other Income	30,116
Subtotal	2,281,119
Draws Transferred from Endowment Funds (below)	2,123,575
TOTAL OPERATING FUND INCOME	4,404,694
OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES	
Program Services	
Youth Development Programs (EdGE, Scholarships, Journey, Davis Maine Scholarship)	1,407,533
Direct Service Programs (Food Security, Housing Repair, Christmas, Outreach)	887,586
Island Service Programs (Island Outreach, Health, Sunbeam)	686,027
Total Program Services	2,981,146
Supporting Services	
Management and General	423,841
Development, Fundraising, and Marketing	377,435
Budgeted Capital Additions	42,406
Total Supporting Services	843,682
TOTAL OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURES	3,824,828
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—OPERATING FUND	579,866
RESTRICTED FUNDS, NET OF OPERATING USES	
RESTRICTED INCOME, NET OF OPERATING USES	
Special Gift and Capital Campaigns	275,177
Foundation and Government Grants	593,123
Bequest Income	361,478
Trust Income (Loss)	(1,249,994)
Transfers of Capitalized Additions	28,642
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Property and Equipment	0
Subtotal	8,426
Investment Income (Loss)	(2,476,890)
Less: Endowment Draws Transferred to Operating Fund (above)	(2,123,575)
Investment Income (Loss), net	(4,600,465)
TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME, NET OF OPERATING USES	(4,592,039)
RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	
Special Project Expenditures	255,277
Depreciation	359,724
TOTAL RESTRICTED EXPENDITURES	615,001
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS—RESTRICTED FUNDS, NET OF OPERATING USES	\$(5,207,040)
TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$(4,627,174)
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT FUNDS VALUE ON JUNE 30, 2022	\$48,089,348

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES \$2,981,146

Direct Service Youth Development Programs 30% 47%

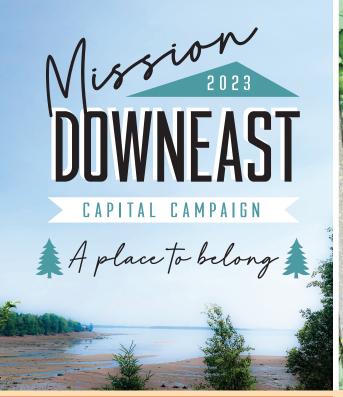
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES

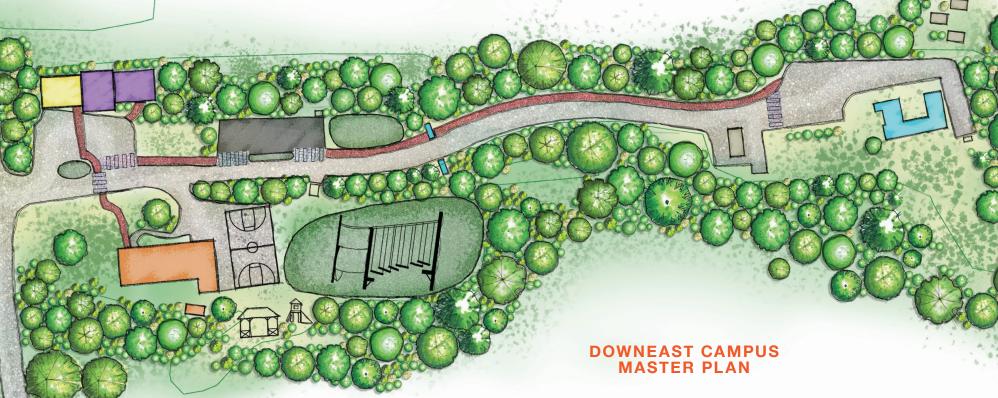


TOTAL REVENUE*



An independent auditor's report is available upon request. Maine Seacoast Mission is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are deductible to the extent provided by law.





I believe so deeply in this campaign that I have already given my gift! I ask you to join me in supporting this transformational work.

-Connie Greaves Bates



The Downeast Campus has been a source of comfort, support, and community for generations of Maine residents in Washington and eastern Hancock counties. Located in Cherryfield and added to the Mission in 1963, the property evolved from a privately-owned family estate to a 63-acre mainstay for our work. Today, the campus includes the serene Weald Bethel Community Center, an active food pantry and administration building, and the bustling Ed and Connie **Greaves Education Center. The property** also features riverside trails, a high ropes course, Adirondack shelter, and a campfire circle.

From the flexible and welcoming, new Downeast Engagement Center at the head of campus to thoughtfully integrated program spaces for youth development, community building, workshops, play, and overnight retreats—the capital improvements will build stronger social connections, provide more healthy meals and food classes, raise aspirations in children, knit families closer to together, and help communities achieve their goals.

MISSION DOWNEAST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IMPROVEMENTS

DOWNEAST ENGAGEMENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION



Create a new Downeast
Engagement Center through
renovation and addition to
the current administrative and
food pantry building at the
head of campus



Renovate the administrative wing of the current building into a new



Add a new wing with an inviting food pantry, cozy coffee nook, and space for healthy living and family workshops



Convert the existing food pantry into a versatile storage and staging area for food, housing improvement, and outdoor gear storage



Add three rustic cabins near the Weald Bethel Community Center to create capacity for weekend retreats for students and housing for Housing Improvement volunteers



For outdoor events and gatherings, install a community pavilion near the Ed and Connie Greaves Education Center



Replace the aging high ropes course with a safer, more visible, and easier to maintain pole-based challenge course



Create connections between the three campus areas and along Weald Bethel Lane using safe and clearly marked pedestrian paths



Create children's play areas to be a more welcoming place for families

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A Milbridge Elementary student hangs around the playground during an EdGE afterschool session

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(/pdate: ISLAND SERVICES

For nine years, Douglas Cornman has been a consistent presence on Maine's outer islands as the Mission's Director of Island Outreach. He teaches improv, dance, and movement classes for island children. He hosts church services, presides over weddings, and conducts funerals. He continues to be a compassionate sounding board and confidant for island residents.

As of January 1, Douglas has taken on the role as Director of Island Services in which he will bring together the Mission's islandbased programming. This change allows the Mission to take a more integrated and comprehensive approach to the initiatives offered to island residents and provide greater continuity of care. While Douglas will head up Island Services programs, the *Sunbeam* boat crew will continue to report to Captain Mike Johnson. Together, Sunbeam staff will continue to provide

islanders the same level of care they rely upon, and have come to expect.

Douglas explains, "This change provides us with additional opportunities to understand what the islands want and need such as access to healthcare. As life on the islands changes, Mission services will continue to evolve alongside it. Stay tuned! It is going to be an exciting season on the Sunbeam."



Douglas Cornman and an island student

Donna Earle East Boothbay United Methodist Women East Freetown Congregational Christian Church

Edgecomb Community Church, UCC

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Journey's inaugural family Thanksgiving. Over 80 people attended in 2022.

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15

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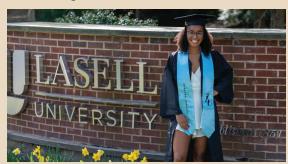
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Dana Kuo

(\shotate: MISSION SCHOLARSHIPS

From teaching lighthouse keepers' children in the 1910s to helping today's high school students in their journeys, education is a central pillar of the Mission's work. And for well over a century, Mission Scholarships have supported the students who call coastal and Downeast Maine home. Since the program's inception, more than 70% of Mission Scholars graduate from college. 99% of Scholars enrolled during the 2022-2023 school year renewed their scholarships and their commitment to



Class of 2022 college graduate Alahna Mild

completing a degree. This figure is above the national average. Why?

Mission Scholarships are unique. In addition to financial support, Scholars receive mentoring and advising as they navigate the transition to college and across their four years of study. The Scholarships Coordinator routinely checks in with each Scholar and builds a peer-topeer network among them.

What's ahead? 90 seniors graduating this June submitted scholarship applications, representing every high school across Washington and Hancock counties and some unbridged islands. Meanwhile, the Class of 2026 Scholars-25 in all-are well into their freshman year and are elated with their collegial pursuits. It's a bright future for young adults pursuing their postsecondary dreams.

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Robert and

Carol Bond

Mass

birthday

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Frenchboro students bid goodbye to Douglas as he heads to Matinicus

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Remembrance: CAPTAIN DAVID ALLEN

Captain David Allen, who piloted Sunbeam IV and Sunbeam V from 1971 until his retirement in 2007, passed away on October 3, 2021. Michael Johnson, the Sunbeam's current captain, shared his memories of Dave.

"I recently unrolled an old paper chart from the Sunbeam and noticed course lines and dead reckoning plots written in Captain



David Allen's handwriting. When Dave began his career for the Mission in 1971, the only piece of electronic equipment on the Sunbeam was a basic

radar. During his remarkable 35 years, he had seen the biggest jump in marine navigational technology in history. As first mate, I was in awe of his ability to both understand the past and embrace the present. If new equipment was available, he researched and learned to use it. It was not unusual for him to have a full course plotted on the computer, but still stop in the fog to listen for a particular bell buoy. He was the perfect blend of old and new. He was also unflappable when he encountered difficult weather.

Dave knew being a crewmember on the Sunbeam meant much more than the job at hand. He made deep friendships in the island communities and was always in the salon to share a laugh or fishing story. He would always open the pilothouse door to give an enthusiastic wave. 'Keeping it friendly' was forever his motto." 🗇



P.O. Box 600 Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

seacoastmission.org





Save the date

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023

MAINE SEACOAST MISSION

Sunbcam Award Gala

5:00pm Cocktails 6:00pm Program 7:00pm Dinner

AT THE BAR HARBOR CLUB

Recognizing those who embody the ideals of community:

Sharon Daley, RN Healthcare Partners